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World of Adventures admits health and safety breaches over toddler's fall

FINED £150K

Fined: Chessington World of Adventures Deadlinepix KT67982

REPORTER
JON SHARMAN
jon.sharman@london.newsquest.co.uk

Chessington World of Adventures (CWOA) has been fined £150,000 and may have to pay thousands more in compensation after a four-year-old girl fell 12ft while queuing for a ride.

Bosses admitted health and safety laws were breached through what a judge called "shoddy repairs" to a partly rotten fence, *pictured*, along the queue for the Tomb Blaster ride.

The girl, who cannot be named for legal reasons, fell through a gap in the fence when a paling was dislodged in June 2012.

She spent a month in hospital with a fractured skull and ribs, and a bleed on the brain.

The untreated fence had rotted due to water dripping from the roof over a period of years. Repairs had been made, but were not recorded.

Guildford Crown Court heard on Monday staff did not plug the gap for 38 minutes after the fallen post was found by a cleaner.

Minutes before the girl fell, a woman saved her own daughter from the drop by grabbing her coat.

Passing sentence, Judge Noel Lucas QC said the plunge was "an accident waiting to happen".

He said: "I do not regard the shoddy repairs carried out by Chessington to have been adequate. The risks were obvious."

There had been "a serious systemic failure in the administration of Chessington", he said.

The girl, who has now started year 3, is "academically behind her peers", prosecutor Matthew Butt said.

He said: "There is marked difference after the accident. She is easily distracted, lacks concentration and is very easily tired."

Continued on page 3

Inside

❑ Inspirational seven-year-old made honorary police officer . . . . . page 3
❑ Ikea to open in Kingston? . . . . . page 6
❑ Concerns over tower block plan for historic Kingston site page 7
❑ Rapist's prison death 'one of 11' at same jail . . . . . page 9

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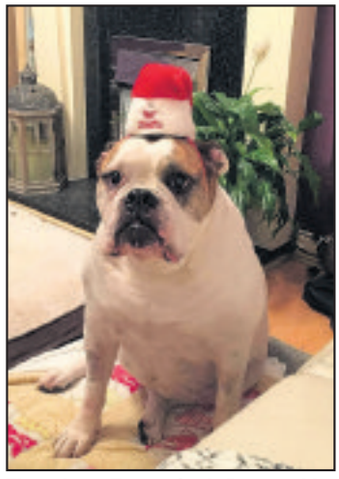

First place: Tracey Guy's Dorset old tyme bulldogge Riah

Second place: Stacy Foster's dandie dinmont Woody

Third place: The prize was shared between Sarah Candy and her border collie Jake, and Lynn Crutcher and golden retriever Baily

Canine lives

Dog lovers in New Malden got a late Christmas present when their pooches were named winners of a vet's pet photography competition.

New Malden Vets in Burlington Road asked clients to send in pictures of their beloved pets getting into the Christmas spirit – with unsurprisingly cute results.

First prize of a £25 voucher to spend at New Malden Vets went to Tracey Guy from Kingston, for her picture of her Dorset old tyme bulldogge Riah in a santa hat.

Stacy Foster and her dandie dinmont Woody came second, while third place was shared between Sarah Candy and her border collie Jake and and Lynn Crutcher and golden retriever Baily.

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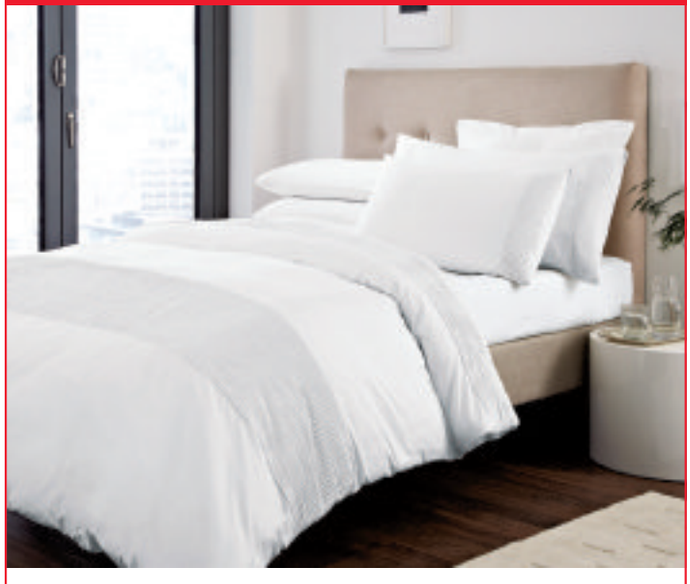

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Long waits as A&E put under pressure

REPORTER
JON SHARMAN
jon.sharman@
london.newsquest.co.uk

Busy time: Kingston Hospital's A&E department
Deadlinepix KT65387

Patients waited to be seen for up to six hours at Kingston Hospital's accident and emergency (A&E) department as hospitals across the country saw extra admissions due to cold weather.

Hospitals must ensure 95 per cent of patients are seen within four hours of arriving, but even in the last week of 2014 the figure at Kingston had slipped to 92.3 per cent.

In the same week, just 13 hospitals in England hit the target.

The four-hour target governs the time between a patient's arrival and their treatment, admission to hospital or transfer.

A hospital spokeswoman said: "The whole hospital continues to be exceptionally busy and we are working around the clock to make sure our patients get the best care in the most appropriate place.

"We are working with our community partners to help ensure the right support is in place for patients when they leave the hospital, so that we are able to discharge patients and have beds available for the acutely ill patients who need them.

"We would ask people to only come in a real emergency. Where possible, use your GP or local walk-in centre."

Kingston was not the only hospital struggling to cope over the weekend of January 3.

At St Peter's Hospital in Chertsey on Monday last week, people were urged to stay away due to severe pressure on services.

A statement by Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust said the department was under "unprecedented demand" and warned all non-emergency patients they faced an "extremely long wait".

By Wednesday last week, a trust spokesman said the situation was still "a major incident", but was "improving significantly".

In June, Kingston Council passed plans for anexpansion of the hospital's A&E department.

A planning document submitted by the hospital admitted the administration, minor injury and observation area was "not fit for purpose and needs to allow for future expansion" because of "cramped accommodation".

Work on the expansion is expected to begin in the summer and will allow more space to treat the most seriously ill patients, the hospital said last week.

Winter pressure is set to continue throughout January and February.

Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg visited Kingston Hospital on January 5 to help launch Kingston and Surbiton MP Edward Davey's election campaign.

Paramedics to assess patients at home

Health commissioners are working with the beleaguered London Ambulance Service (LAS) on an alternative way of treating patients to keep them out of accident and emergency (A&E).

Since April last year the service has struggled with capacity and demand for paramedics and has seen high staff attrition, a report to Kingston Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) shows.

In the pilot scheme, based in Hollyfield Road, Surbiton, non-critical patients are assessed at home by an advanced nurse practitioner and a paramedic in order to ease winter pressures on health services including Kingston Hospital.

About 70 per cent of patients treated in this way have not needed to go to A&E, according to the CCG.

GPs have been told that LAS performance in Kingston is better than in the capital as a whole, in part due to a less precipitous rise in demand than has been seen elsewhere.

Kingston Hospital's record on transferring patients out of ambulances is good, the GPs' reports said, and in some areas is the best in south-west London.

CONTACTS
Calls may be monitored for training purposes

EDITORIAL
Assistant Editor: Ross Logan
ross.logan@london.newsquest.co.uk
Tel: 020 8722 6317

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WISH LIST: Seven-year-old boy joins Kingston's passing out parade

Say hello to Malachi – the new police recruit

REPORTER
JON SHARMAN
jon.sharman@london.newsquest.co.uk

Sporting his own handmade uniform, Kingston's youngest police constable joined nearly 200 new police recruits in a passing-out parade.

Malachi Tyler, seven, ticked another wish off his bucket list during the symbolic completion of police training last Friday.

He had an incurable brain tumour and neurofibrosis diagnosed aged one, and has previously visited Kingston police station as part of the list of things he would like to do in his lifetime.

Chief Superintendent Glenn Tunstall said: "On the day that this little boy visited Kingston police station for the first time he won the hearts of every member of staff at Kingston.

"His positivity, his cheekiness, the constant giggles and ultimately his courage in the face of adversity humbled us all.

"In the Met one of our values is courage – which is epitomised by this little boy and his family."

Comment on this story at kingstonguardian.co.uk

On parade: Assistant commissioner Mark Rowley, Malachi Tyler, Chief Supt Tunstall; Visiting Kingston police station last year
Deadlinepix KT87272

Cordon: Emergency services outside John Lewis

Pensioner hit by bus

A pensioner was left in a critical condition after being hit by a bus in Kingston town centre.

The man, in his 80s, was hit outside John Lewis, just after 4pm on Friday, January 9.

A 285 and a 111 bus were taped off in Wood Street by police as ambulance crews attended to the man.

An ambulance spokeswoman said the patient was taken to hospital in a critical condition.

Buses were backed up over Kingston bridge for several hours while the road was closed.

Fined over safety breach

Continued from page 1

The girl has a classroom assistant throughout the day, paid for by CWOA's insurers.

Claire Howard, of Irwin Mitchell solicitors, said on behalf of the family: "Although the Health and Safety Executive prosecution is now over, the civil claim continues.

"[The girl] still has years of difficulty ahead of her because of her injuries and the likelihood is that she may have to live with the consequences of this incident forever."

A CWOA spokeswoman said: "The resort has an excellent safety record with no previous convictions or enforcement notices against it, and every year invests significant resources in maintenance and safety measures.

"What happened to the young child was an isolated incident, which we deeply regret, and from the outset we have put in place a package of support for the child and the family which will continue for as long as is required."

The park had worked with the HSE to make the ride safer, she added.

Drop: The fence, covered in sheeting, where the girl fell

'HAPPENED SO QUICKLY'

The court was read a statement by the girl's mother, in which she described how she had suffered post-traumatic stress from the incident and had been prescribed anti-depressants.

She said of what happened: "This was the first ride we were going on that day. We were simply moving with the queue.

"One minute she was there, and the next she wasn't. It all happened so quickly.

"I remember running and screaming through the queue to get down. When I got there she wasn't making any noise at all. I went in the ambulance.

"We weren't sure if [she] was going to survive."

Her mother, who said she was "very proud" of her daughter's progress, added: "She regressed after the accident. It was like having a toddler back in the house."

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Sewage learning

An education centre at Hogsmill sewage treatment plan has been given a badge of quality by a schools quango.

The Council for Learning Outside the Classroom lauded the Thames Water centre where kids can learn about the water cycle and how to make electricity from sewage.

Man admits assault

A former New Malden resident has admitted sexually touching a young girl seven years ago.

Jean-Baptiste Kim, 47, formerly of Orchard Avenue, appeared at Kingston Crown Court on Friday, January 9.

He pleaded guilty to one count of sexual touching on a female aged 13 or over without penetration in Coombe Road in Kingston on October 4, 2007.

A warrant for his arrest was previously issued on November 15, 2007, but he only appeared in court in relation to the charge last year.

Kim, now of Avenue Des Barattes in Annecy, France, will next appear at Kingston Crown Court for his sentencing on January 30.

New landlord still needed for gig pub

CHIEF REPORTER
NAZIA DEWJI
ndewji@
london.newsquest.co.uk

The future of Kingston's iconic gig venue the Grey Horse remains unclear, as owners Young's struggle to find a new landlord.

The Richmond Road pub, which has hosted live music and comedy for almost 70 years, closed for refurbishment at the end of last year following landlord Richard Fletcher's retirement.

There has been widespread speculation that Young's wants to turn the venue into a gastropub. But the brewer has always insisted the decision on whether or not to keep live music at the Grey Horse would be up to the new managers.

However, with no prospective new manager in sight, the fate of the pub is still to be decided.

Uncertain future: Grey Horse

Jeff Bygraves, Young's area manager, said: "We have been marketing the pub for some time now, but no one has come forward with a suitable business plan.

"Of course it is a problem. It is not an option for us to take on the pub ourselves.

"We have just got to hope that somebody comes through. Until we find the right person there is nothing much we can do.

"We are talking to as many people as we can. We hope the pub will have captured someone's imagination."

He said Young's were in discussion with four different people at this point, but had spoken to many others in previous months.

Any new landlord would not be able to move in until the pub's refurbishment was completed in March.

The Grey Horse's popular Crack Comedy night has moved to the Library nightclub in High Street, Kingston.

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RIDER FINED: A Surbiton man has been fined for riding a moped without insurance and while disqualified. Sam Woods, 23, of Cranborne Avenue, admitted the offences. He was fined £90 and ordered to pay costs of £50, plus a £20 victim surcharge, at Wimbledon Magistrates' Court on Friday, January 9. He was also banned from the road for seven months.

TOP SCHOOL: High society magazine Tatler has named the Coombe Federation as one of Britain's top educators in its 2015 schools guide. The state schools were recognised by editors at the aristocratic glossy for its performing arts provision, improving its share of top grades. Headteacher Deborah Walls was described as "friendly, calm, energetic and conscientious".

BENCH WINNER:

A schoolboy has designed a bench that will be unveiled in the Sheephouse Way estate. Malden Manor Primary School pupil Owen Bicker, nine, designed the checkerboard-style bench as part of a charity campaign to encourage people to walk and cycle in the area. It will also be used for school walking and map-making projects.

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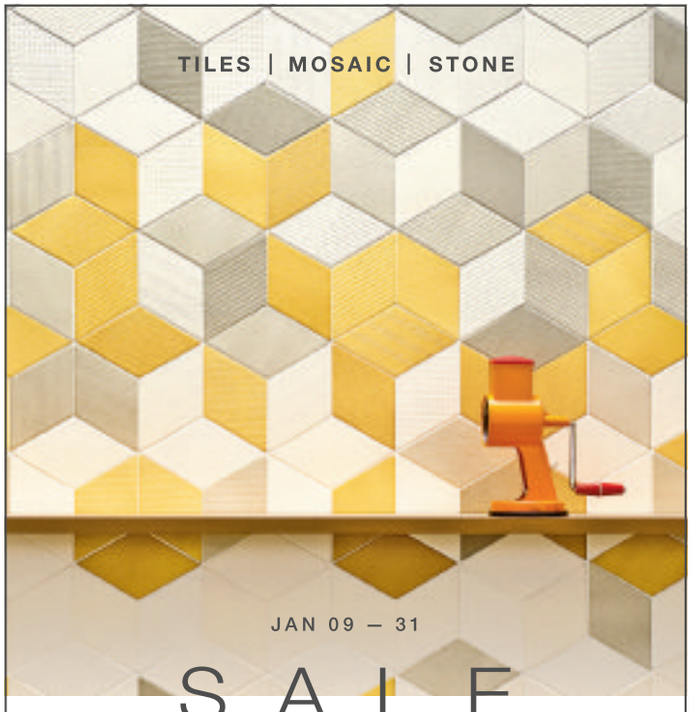

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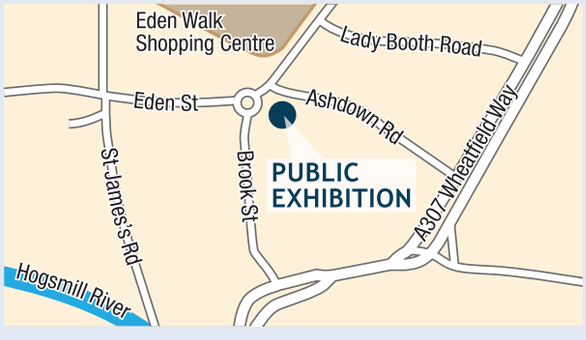

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Borough on Ikea's radar for new store

REPORTER
RACHAEL BURFORD
rachael.burford@london.newsquest.co.uk

Swedish furniture giant Ikea has held talks with Kingston Council to discuss potential locations for a new superstore in the borough.

The flat-pack specialist has confirmed the company is looking at potential sites in south-west London and Surrey as part of its ongoing expansion plans – and council leader Councillor Kevin Davis said Kingston is on the company's radar.

But he was unsure whether a site big enough for the iconic retailer existed in the borough.

Coun Davis said: "Finding the space for something as large as Ikea is going to be difficult.

"They would like to be in Kingston, it is just a matter of finding a site and working out what would be needed to accommodate such a large company."

Ikea: Looking for a location

Coun Davis also dismissed rumours that Ikea was looking at Shannon Corner in New Malden, currently home to the likes of DFS, Bensons for Beds, B&Q and Halfords.

He said: "I can't see anything at Shannon Corner being big enough for something as large as Ikea."

The nearest Ikea for Kingston residents is also the largest in the UK – the 37,000sq m superstore in Croydon.

An Ikea spokeswoman said: "We are reviewing our expansion strategy on an ongoing basis.

"This includes the rebuilding and adaptation of our stores to better serve local customers and choosing new Ikea locations.

"We are considering south-west London as a potential location for Ikea, however we have nothing to confirm at this point in time."

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ORDER BREACH: A man has been given a suspended sentence for a third breach of a restraining order against a woman. Christopher Piper, 27, of Acre Road, Kingston, admitted sending text and Facebook messages to the woman in October and November last year. He was sentenced to 28 days in prison, suspended for nine months, at Wimbledon Magistrates' Court on January 9. He must also pay £45 costs and an £80 victim surcharge.

MEAT THIEF: A Chessington man has been ordered to undergo treatment for drug addiction after he admitted stealing meat from Lidl. Mark Baker, 39, of Orchid Close, stole at least £158 of meat from the Leatherhead Road shop in December. He was handed a six-month treatment order at Wimbledon Magistrates' Court on Friday, January 9.

CRASH FIRE: A car burst into flames on the A3 at Tolworth following a crash. Police were called to reports of an accident just after 1pm on Friday, January 9. A police spokesman said a car had hit the barriers northbound on the A3 before debris hit the window of another vehicle travelling southbound. No injuries were reported.

SIGN UP: Guests at Surbiton farmers' market will be the YMCA, which hopes to sign up volunteers for SleepEasy. The sleep-out will take place on March 6. The charity will also sell cake and soup at the Maple Road market, from 9am to 1pm, on Saturday.

Vision: An impression of how Ashdown Road could look

How high?

CHIEF REPORTER
NAZIA DEWJI
ndewji@
london.newsquest.co.uk

Kingston residents have expressed concerns over plans to build a 21-storey block of flats at Kingston's historic former post office site.

Developer St George has submitted a planning application to Kingston Council finalising its vision for the Ashdown Road car park, part of the town centre's Eden Quarter and a key location in the council's regeneration plans.

The proposals include keeping the listed buildings and demolishing others to make way for a 21-storey residential block in Ashdown Road.

The building has been designed by John Thompson & Partners and Malcolm Fryer Architects and would see the demolition of Argyll House and Brook House office buildings and their car parks, to make way for more than 350 homes, plus retail, cafe and community spaces.

But Kingston resident Tessa Kind said: "I'm disappointed with the brown block designs, and the skyscraper block on corner of Wheatfield Way/Brook Street resembles the Cambridge estate with protruding balconies.

"It is actually five storeys taller than the Cambridge estate flats – making it 21 storeys. It will darken the whole of Eden Street.

"Why can't they design an iconic building that the whole town can still be proud of in 30 years?"

Kingston Council leader Kevin Davis said: "In one sense they have worked really hard – they consulted and listened to the feedback that came from that.

"They are keeping the post office – restoring it, completely preserving the telephone exchange.

"But it does go up quite high at one point. I think there is still a debate about how high we want to go in the town centre. This won't keep everybody happy."

Marilyn Mason, from the Old Post Office (TOPO) community group, said: "The TOPO consortium will be happy that all the listed buildings on the site are down to be conserved and renovated for new uses, and that there are several references in the planning application documents to community use.

"We look forward to learning more about that, as our consortium came together a couple of years ago to try to secure affordable and accessible community space in the former main Post Office, which has been derelict for far too long – it's time it was brought to life again."

The planning consultation will be open until January 30 at **kingston.gov.uk**.

'Keep weekly recycling'

Kingston and Surbiton MP Edward Davey believes Kingston Council could maintain weekly recycling and still save money, in light of Conservative plans to switch to alternate collections.

The Energy Secretary also criticised a lack of consultation over proposals that could see households waiting two weeks to discard certain recyclables, as the Tory-run council renegotiates its waste managment contract with contractors Veolia.

The council announced late last year that it was considering a propsal to switch to alternate collections for paper and tin, a move that would save £4.2m over seven years.

But the plan has been met with resistance from residents and Liberal Democrat councillors.

Mr Davey said: "I think we can save money and maintain weekly recycling.

"When the current recycling scheme was brought in there was a pilot in Berrylands.

"There was a consultation for every area to work out what the best way for that house or flat or block would be.

"But this time there has been no consultation, no pilot and not even a proper analysis."

He added the proposed scheme could lead to the overflow of recyclables, less people recycling and more confusion among residents.

Of Kingston's neighbouring boroughs, Richmond has weekly recycling schemes, while Croydon currently uses the same alternate system that Kingston hopes to introduce.

Belief: Edward Davey

Richmond Park and North Kingtson MP Zac Goldsmith said: "The truth is, there is no perfect recycling system because what suits one household won't necessarily suit another, but it's crazy to mount a campaign to preserve today's system which simply isn't working.

"Fifty per cent of good recyclable waste ends up in landfill, and although the council should of course listen to people's concerns, I'm pleased that it is committed to improving, not just maintaining current recycling rates.

"For my part I am working cross-party for changes nationally to reduce the amount of waste we generate as a country – enough to fill the Albert Hall every single hour."

A decision on the borough's recycling is set to be made at full council tonight, January 15.

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Admissions changing

Kingston Council has begun a consultation into school admission arrangements for next year.

It is proposed that sibling priority will only be given where an applicant has a sibling attending the same or linked infant and junior schools at the time of admission.

However, the council has proposed removing sibling priority for children who apply for a primary school place and have a sibling attending the school's nursery.

The consultation is available to view on the council website and will close on Friday, January 23.

Loved up Kingston back for third time this year

CHIEF REPORTER
NAZIA DEWJI
ndewji@
london.newsquest.co.uk

Lovers may buy red roses and heart-shaped chocolates this Valentine's Day, but Kingston residents will pay for shelter, food and essential items for those in need.

Businesses, schools, organisations and residents have pledged their continued support to their community for the third annual Love Kingston Day on February 14.

But the race is on to raise £100,000 for the borough's biggest charity appeal, which donates money to Kingston-based good causes.

Love Kingston fundraising manager Elaine Miller said: "What is quite exciting about this year is the diverse range of people getting involved and the different activities they are doing – it really is building and building on what we have done in the past two years."

Once again Kingston town centre will be loved up with activities and fundraisers taking place.

Community support: The first Love Kingston Day Deadlinepix KT73763

Thames Sailing Club will host a regatta on the day and children from Dolphin nursery will showcase an art exhibition.

Last year the appeal managed to raise £35,019 on Love Kingston Day.

But this year promises to be even bigger with more than £5,000 already in the bag.

Surbiton and Kingston MP Edward Davey, a patron of Love Kingston, said: "I am a huge supporter of Love Kingston. My little girl was born on February 14 too.

"Elaine is nothing if not ambitious and I am delighted that she is ambitious. I am really looking forward to it."

For the first time this year, fundraisers will also be in line to get awards for most innovative idea, most people involved, most amount raised, biggest impact on social media and outstanding contribution.

Since launching in October 2012 under the theme "pathways out of poverty", Love Kingston's chosen charities have been women's refuge Hestia, youth charity Oxygen, Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness, credit union Surrey Savers and Kingston Foodbank.

Five new charites will be chosen in April this year, to be supported from October.

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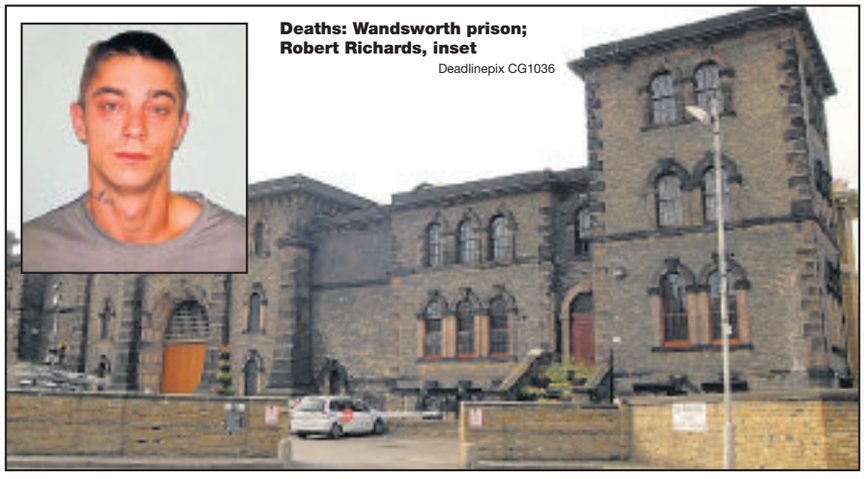

Deaths: Wandsworth prison; Robert Richards, inset

Deadlinepix CG1036

PRISON SUICIDES: Did bullying lead to inmate's death?

Rapist's death one of 11 at same jail

REPORTER
SOPHIA SLEIGH
ssleigh@
london.newsquest.co.uk

A man who raped a Chessington pensioner was one of 11 men to die while in custody in Wandsworth prison last year.

Robert Richards, 22, hanged himself in his cell in July, and left a note referencing "debts" he had inherited from his former cell mate Ian Pearson, 42, who had also hanged himself in March.

At a pre-inquest hearing into the deaths of the two prisoners, coroner Dr Fiona Wilcox raised concerns about the number of deaths at the country's biggest prison, and said she would be speaking to the police about it.

Dr Wilcox said: "I am concerned last year there were 11 deaths in custody.

"I'm concerned that some of the other deaths have similar issues.

"I will be making inquiries to see if these deaths were related in any way."

Dr Cox also repeatedly expressed her disappointment that the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman had not turned up to the hearing.

Richards, of Pear Tree Close, Chessington, had been convicted in June of raping and attempting to murder a woman in her 70s in October 2013.

The father-of-one died days before he was due to be sentenced for his crime.

At Westminster Coroner's Court on Wednesday last week, Jude Bunting, representing Richards' family, raised a number of concerns about smuggling, the care of vulnerable prisoners and bullying inside Wandsworth.

He said: "Mr Richards left a note in his cell in which he indicated he couldn't go on with the bullying he was receiving.

"Mr Pearson I understand to have been his cellmate.

"He committed suicide in his cell when he was a prisoner.

"Mr Richards appears to have referred to Mr Pearson himself in the note and it appears Mr Richards complains to one officer or maybe more after Mr Pearson's death he was being bullied in respect to debts he had inherited."

Mr Bunting spoke of C-wing, where Richards and Pearson resided, and how a healthcare assistant was prosecuted last year for bringing in contraband, and ongoing allegations of a staff member bringing in cannabis to the wing.

The court heard just before Richards' death he was due to be adjudicated for possession of a mobile phone.

Both inquests could be heard together by the same jury.

A date has not yet been set for the inquests to take place but further pre-inquest hearings are expected in coming weeks.

Drunk thug jailed

A Surbiton man has been jailed after committing a slew of offences including assaulting a police officer, smashing a glass door, being drunk and disorderly and stealing beer.

Andrew Thompson 22, of Alfriston, Berrylands Road, was jailed for eight weeks on January 7, and ordered to pay £250 compensation at Wimbledon Magistrates' Court.

He had pleaded guilty to the following:

- Stealing a six-pack of beer, worth £5, from Tesco in Hook Parade in November.
- Obstructing two police officers there.
- Behaving in a threatening manner towards a person at the shop; and racially abusing that person and an officer.
- Failing to turn up to court in December.
- Damaging a glass door panel worth £200 owned by Kingston Council, the day after the Tesco incident.
- Assaulting a police constable on the way into the cells at Kingston police station in December; and a day later, was drunk and disorderly in High Street.
- Failing to turn up to court for another December hearing.
- Was drunk and disorderly at Surbiton train station.

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ONLINE: All your letters in full online at **kingstonguardian.co.uk/yoursay**
Letters may be edited for space, clarity and legal reasons.

ONLINE OPINION

Comment on stories at **kingstonguardian.co.uk**

Council 'can keep weekly recycling and still save money' claims MP

I think that if the weekly recycling collections were to change to every two weeks then the amount of recyclables will simply drop off.

I try to recycle as much as possible and normally fill up two green boxes every week as well as the cardboard bag resulting in space in my wheelie bin even with collections for landfill every two weeks.

ALPHAECHO

Tributes to former Kingston school student found dead

How sad. This was a talented young man who could have given so much to the community and led a brilliant life. RIP

GEORGE P

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It is essential your email or letter is headed "Complaint" in the subject line and contains the following information:

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If complaining about third party comments on our website articles, you should use the "report this post" function online next to the comment.

Many complaints of block's faulty lights

I write with regards to numerous complaints made to Kingston Council that have been ignored.

I live in a block that has four flats, two on the ground floor and two on the first floor.

I live on the first floor – to reach the first floor you have to climb up two flights of concrete stairs.

Within the last year alone, I have reported and complained about communal lights not working more than 10 times.

However, this has been an ongoing problem for many years prior to 2014, and I am unsure of how many times prior to this that I have reported the communal lights not working.

Back in September 2014 just after I had an operation I fell down the stairs due to the lights being out; thankfully I just bruised my arm.

I reported this and asked for a manager to call me, but no one has contacted me.

While the council does send out the contractors to repair the lights all they do is switch back on the tripped switch.

It does not take a rocket scientist to work out that if the fuse keeps tripping there is obviously a serious problem.

This problem seems to stem from the constant mini lake on top of the hard stand.

When it rains the mini lake gets bigger and then obviously trickles into the boarded up garages below – where the fuse box is.

Now surely everyone knows that water and electrics do not mix, so why is this being ignored?

The mini lake has been there for so long that the hard stand is slippery and dangerous to walk on. In the winter the kids love it as it turns into an ice skating rink, but in the summer, as the water never drains away unless we have a drought, the water becomes stagnant and a health risk in itself.

In the past I have also reported that the felt on the hard stand had been peeling back and my daughter had tripped on it. This was repaired, or should I say patched up with concrete.

Due to the repair being a patch job it has since broken up and the felt has become hazardous again.

Currently the lights are not working again.

I did report this to the council out of hours, but they still have not sent anyone to fix it.

I am not the only resident affected by this issue. Not having lighting is dangerous and can make you also feel unsafe, especially more so in the winter months as many residents live alone.

What has it got to take before this issue is rectified for good?

ODETTE STAPLEY
Kingston

Borough view

Ben Archer, from Chessington, took this picture of sunset in Kingston. To see your photo featured in Borough View, email it with details of where you took it to jon.sharman@london.newsquest.co.uk.

Parking mad over hospital charges

I attended Kingston Hospital on December 18 at 1.09pm and I left at 2.05pm.

My blue badge was clearly displayed in the window – as shown on the photographic evidence they have sent me – at no time did I see any signs to say the conditions for parking had changed.

I also waited for some time at the main reception desk.

Again there was nothing there to say anything about the above.

I am appalled I have received a £100 parking fine; it is outrageous. Since receiving this I know of two other people, also with blue badges, that have received tickets.

COLLEEN MOORE
Via email

System working well

I would like to add my support to the disquiet over the probable reduction in recycling.

This is one of the services that the council, up to now, has got right.

The present system works well and the variety of waste recycled is extensive.

Also, we owe it to the world to do our bit in reducing waste, and dealing with it properly.

The council has made this possible by frequent and comprehensive collection.

We do not need extra bins; they are clutter and an eyesore. Just keep our current recycling method.

Also, public consultation on this matter seems to have passed this family by.

SUE BURLEY
Old Malden

Thank you

In December, Richard Challoner boys' school provided entertainment and refreshments for members of New Malden Club for the Blind, with members of Arthritis Care – nearly 50 people.

This is an annual event the school provides with participation with the community.

Small tables were arranged for members and each had a waiter to serve them and these were from the pupils, who were also involved with the catering and the delicious refreshments provided by the domestic science department.

The members were also treated to first class musical entertainment from pupils.

As I am a member of both clubs, we wish to thank all staff and pupils for their time in arranging a very enjoyable afternoon and are extremely grateful to the head, Tom Cahill, who has always been very supportive of these clubs.

COUNCILLOR DAVID FRASER
Old Malden ward

Un-fare rises on train travel

I am writing about the 30 per cent price rise of the off-peak Travelcard for zones 1 to 6.

The price used to be £8.90 and is now £12.

This is an unbelievable price rise; is the Government trying to stop us travelling?

For 10 years in a row rail fares have been hiked well above the rate of inflation; now the train service is the most expensive in Europe.

So we are stuck with an unreliable train service with broken and outdated trains with fewer staff on trains and at stations.

Plus Surbiton station is in the wrong zone; it should be zone 5 but George Osborne insists that it should stay in zone 6.

The rail network is vital to our economy and environment, but there is little investment from private train operators.

Most investment is from taxpayers. In 2012-13, taxpayers paid £4bn, while private train companies paid more than £200m in dividends to shareholders.

The railway needs to be affordable, under public ownership, that puts people before profit.

MARK HARRINGTON
Via email

TWEETS of the WEEK

@SandfordEmily: The best thing I've read on Twitter this week is that someone thought Ariana Grande was a font.

@andyhone: I've just found out who was nicking my beetroot. I caught him red handed #rubbishjoketuesday

@RobertCorp: #BusStrike means a hearty two-mile walk to the station this morning. A pleasant change.

Epsom Coaches *Home to Holiday*

Spring Breaks

We have a great selection of Spring breaks. Other holidays in the UK and Europe available.

Cornwall in Springtime
Wednesday 11 March

A great break staying at a popular welcoming hotel with entertainment every night.

Dorset in the Spring
Sunday 22 March

Staying at a 4 star hotel on the East Cliff with entertainment. Visit the RNLI College in Poole and 'ghostly' Athelhampton.

Menton Lemon Festival
Friday 13 February

Stunning event on the Cote d'Azur with floats decorated with oranges and lemons.

Easter Breaks

Enjoy one of our exciting Easter Breaks. There are four different destinations to choose from.

Derbyshire
Thursday 2 April

Visit magnificent Chatsworth and enjoy a trip to the National Tramway Museum. Stay in an excellent 4 star hotel.

Durham
Thursday 2 April

Staying at a manor house overlooking the Derwent Valley, we visit Beamish, Durham and Hadrian's Wall.

Harrogate
Thursday 2 April

Staying at the oldest hotel in Harrogate, we visit Harlow Carr and the Dales, with a special steam and canal day out.

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Newcastle, Bamburgh and Northumbria
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Austrian Tyrol Discoverer
Friday 26 June

A superb 10 day tour, with a packed itinerary exploring this beautiful region of towering mountains, dramatic valleys, waterfalls and fast-flowing rivers. Stay in a traditional hotel in the Ziller Valley. A very successful tour in recent years.

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

Keep safe from fire - on every level

A FEW too many celebratory nights out and overindulgence during the festive season mean many of us are spending the cold, dark winter evenings at home in the new year. But those domestic treats to cheer us – the heater turned up to 'max', candles giving a soft glow and perhaps some chips cooking in the kitchen – can bring greater risks of fire in the home.

That's why the Fire Kills campaign, together with fire and rescue services around the country, is asking you and your household to take extra care and is recommending a few simple steps to keep everyone safe.

SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES

Simple steps save lives

More than nine out of ten homes now have at least one smoke alarm installed. But fire can break out anywhere in the home. To make sure that any smoke does set off your smoke alarms, install at least one on every level of your home and especially close to where you sleep.

If you test them at least monthly you can be confident that they are all working properly – both the power supply and the detection mechanism. Then you can be sure that you and your household will have the earliest possible warning of danger should a fire break out.

Last year 213 people died in fires in their home. The most common reason why smoke alarms didn't go off was because smoke did not reach the detector. Another reason was that the batteries were flat or missing.

Working smoke alarms on every level really can save lives.

Plan your escape routes

Once you know fire has started in your home, get out, stay out and call 999. But how are you going to get out? That is the next simple step we are urging you to think about now – your escape routes. The best one is your normal way in and out of your home. Then you need a good back-up plan in case the fire is blocking that route.

Make sure all your routes are always clear of blockages you can control, like boxes and toys, and everyone knows where door and window keys are kept. A household planning session and practice run can be a life-saver for everyone – especially those who might need extra help with some routes or are a little slower. Most people overestimate their ability to escape a fire – often not realising the deadly effect of smoke. Surveys suggest that around 70 per cent of older people fall into this group but, sadly, more than half of the people who died in recent domestic fires in England were aged 65 and over.

> **Most people overestimate their ability to escape a fire – often not realising the deadly effect of smoke. A household planning session and practice run can be a lifesaver**

Don't risk tragedy in a fire in your home, follow these three simple steps:

- Install a smoke alarm on every level and near sleeping areas
- Test them at least monthly to make sure they are all working
- Plan and practise your escape routes and keep them clear.

● **For more information and fire safety advice, visit www.gov.uk/firekills at www.facebook.com/firekills or follow us on Twitter @Fire_Kills**

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

Financial support for small businesses – where to start?

Founder Rob Law says his business Trunki has greatly benefitted from government financial support

AS a small business owner, what keeps you awake at night? For many, balancing the books is top of the list. Healthy finances are crucial to allow you to both invest in your business while protecting it from what the future may bring. Fortunately, there is a range of government support available to help your business to be secure and, most importantly, grow.

One example of a small business that has received government financial support is Trunki. Its innovatively designed products, including the famous children's suitcase, have enabled the company to access a range of government products and services, helping the owners to take huge leaps as a business.

"Trunki has received government support in a number of ways," explains Rob Law, founder of Trunki. "Firstly, we worked hard to re-shore our manufacturing to our plastics moulding factory in Plymouth, allowing us to benefit from The Patent Box scheme."

The Patent Box enables companies to apply a lower rate of corporation tax to profits earned from patented inventions. It is being phased in over a four-year period and once the full benefit of the Patent Box is in effect (from April 2017) it will result in a ten per cent rate of corporation tax being applied to such returns.

"We have always applied for patents for all of our products to build up our IP portfolio, it's one of the most valuable assets we have," says Rob. "This scheme is brilliant, allowing us to re-invest more of our earnings back into the business. It motivated us to stay in the UK and not go offshore. It rewards inventive companies too, which can only be a good thing.

> **'This scheme is brilliant, allowing us to re-invest more of our earnings back into the business'**

"Secondly, we received government support through R&D tax credits for the development of our BoostAPak children's car seat and for the re-engineered version of our Trunki suitcases, which is now easier to manufacture in the UK and to recycle."

There are many types of financial support available to businesses with ambitions to grow. As well as the increasing variety of finance sources now available (such as crowdfunding, bank loans and peer-to-peer lending) there are many government schemes and incentives, on top of those Trunki accessed, that are devised to help small businesses secure the funding they need to succeed.

For example, your business may be eligible for financial support packages such as the Enterprise Investment Scheme, SMART grants or Social Investment Tax Relief. Or perhaps your business needs the support to secure initial funding to help turn your idea into a reality.

● To learn about all of the finance options available to you and your business, and for more details on how the government can support you financially, visit www.greatbusiness.gov.uk/finance

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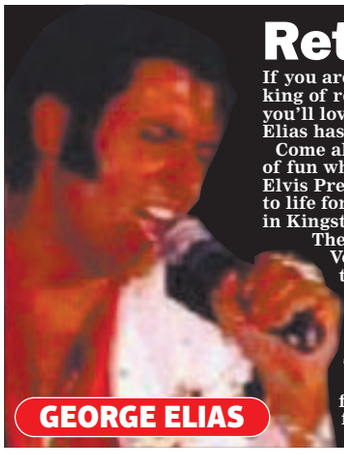
Return of the King



GEORGE ELIAS

If you are a fan of the king of rock 'n' roll then you'll love what George Elias has to offer.

Come along for a night of fun where legend Elvis Presley comes back to life for one night only in Kingston next month.

The evening of live Vegas-style entertainment is part of a charity night in aid of the Mayor's Charitable Trust this year.

Boogie to your favourite hits from Jailhouse Rock to Hound Dog and Heartbreak Hotel before tucking into a buffet dinner with friends and family at the home of Kingston Sea Cadets.

This year's Mayor's Trust will be supporting the sea cadets, scouts and girl guides with its fundraising activities,

● ***George Elias; TS Steadfast; Lower Teddington Road, Kingston; February 13, 7pm; 07986 621570, ts.steadfast@o2.co.uk.***

Vibe SHORTS

HEAD TO THE BEACH: Leeds band Menace Beach will play an all-ages show at Banquet Records next week. The indie rock five-piece have just released their debut album, for which they have received rave reviews and been compared to the likes of the Pixies and My Bloody Valentine.

● **Menace Beach; Banquet Records, Eden Street, Kingston; January 22, 6pm; CD and ticket £9.99; visit banquetrecords.com.**

NORTHERN SOUL: There is still time to catch the Northern Attitudes exhibition at Kingston Museum this month. The free exhibition features 12 artists using paint, sculptures and installations that provide an insight into the art scene in Oldenburg in Lower Saxony.

● **Northern Attitudes, Kingston Museum, Wheatfield Way, Kingston; until January 17; call 020 8547 5006, email kingston.museum@rbk.kingston.gov.uk.**

EXPLORING HERITAGE: Interested in researching your family's past? Head along to Tolworth library for an ancestry taster session next month.

● **Ancestry taster; Tolworth library, Broadway; February 6, 2pm to 2.45pm.**

COMEDY KETTLE: If comedy is your kettle of fish, Ryan Dalton has you sorted. The Kingston comic has gathered four more performers for the Comedy Wire slot at Surbiton's Copper Kettle, including New Zealander Jake Howie and Woolwich Grand Theatre king of comedy winner Tom Holmes. Jack Campbell, along with Darrell Skipper, host of Hackney stand-up session Joke Newington, complete the roster.

● **Comedy Wire; Copper Kettle, Brighton Road, Surbiton; January 28, 8pm; free; thecomedywire.co.uk.**

It's ELEMENTARY

Picture: Jon Constant

SHIRLEY HOLMES AND THE SOUND OF THE BASKET WHEELS

● **The Cornerhouse, 116 Douglas Road, Surbiton. Tuesday January 27 to Saturday, January 31. 7.45pm plus Saturday matinee 4pm; £6-8; visit thecornerhouse.org**

The Cornerhouse is showcasing its 27th annual pantomime at the end of the month, *writes Rachael Burford*.

The Surbiton arts centre is marking almost three decades of original panto with the tale of Shirley Holmes and the Sound of the Basket Wheels.

Famous cross-dressing detective Shirley Holmes, played by Richard Williams, and her sidekick Dr Whatnot are tasked with solving a bizarre mystery after the hapless Tolorth D'Arcy CID come up short again.

Set in the gloomy suburbs of Victorian London, Shirley Holmes is a story of heroism, deduction, intrigue and adventure all with an original musical score and some truly groan-worthy puns.

Writer and director Tim Harrison has been in all of the Cornerhouse's panto productions.

He says: "We were seen by 750 people last year and it's amazing that this is our 27th year on the trot.

"This pantomime is one of the best we've done, I think. I'm especially excited about it because it is the first time we have had a pantomime horse.

"We couldn't tell a story based on Sherlock Holmes and not have a Hansom cab."

As well as writing and directing the production, Harrison is also playing Mrs Buxom, a version of Holmes' iconic landlord Mrs Hudson.

Harrison says: "This marks another year where I squeeze myself into a dress and play a woman.

> **"This marks another year where I squeeze myself into a dress and play a woman"**

"We like a challenge and in the past we have adapted plays such as King Lear, but this year one of the main reasons for choosing a Sherlock Holmes story is that it lends itself very well to a pantomime adaptation.

"It's a great mystery tale and has a really entertaining lead character."

"I'm writing and directing, but it's still great to be up on the stage with a comic part."

One of the highlights of the production is the Baker Street Irregulars, Holmes' gang of street children.

Twenty local children, between the ages of five and 16, make up the gang who help Holmes.

Harrison says: "Some of the kids have been working with us for years and they're so professional.

"They're almost exactly the same set of kids that worked with us last year so they know how everything works and aren't shy on the stage.

"They are definitely one of the best things about the show."

COUNTRY CAPER

People who want to spend more time outdoors and don't mind getting their hands dirty can help the Countryside Team construct hedges to encourage and improve habitat growth.

The Countryside Team runs a volunteer task once a month, they are open to anyone who has an interest in conserving and improving the Elmbridge borough's countryside sites.

The work is often labour intensive, but are extremely important to the overall work done by the ranger team.

All the equipment is provided, along with an essential supply of tea and biscuits. Volunteers are welcome to stay as long as they want, with a countryside ranger on hand to answer any questions.

The aim is to create some instant habitat to counteract the decline of UK hedgerows.

A spokesman for the team says: "A dead hedge can give shelter to small mammals as well as protecting the regrowth of small trees which can eventually be laid still living into the hedge itself.

"This is an excellent opportunity to make a big impact in a single day. We hope you can join us."

● **Volunteer Day: Dead Hedge Laying; meet at Copsem Lane Car park, Portsmouth Road, Esher; 10am-3.45pm; Wednesday, January 28; call 01372 474565 for more information.**

FOR MORE ON THESE AND OTHER STORIES VISIT kingstonguardian.co.uk/vibe

CRACK the CODE

CODING CLUB

Coding, HTML, CSS, JavaScript. If you don't understand what those words mean, start panicking now, *writes Louisa Clarence-Smith*.

That is the message of governments, employers and teachers who have identified computer programming as the most in-demand-but-unavailable skill in the UK.

But if your school days are long behind you, the chances are you haven't got a clue about how computers work, despite the fact you spend at least eight hours a day glaring at one.

Which means you will miss out on the excitement of designing an app that could transform lives and your bank balance.

Which is how I found myself, blurry-eyed, knocking on an unmarked door opposite a seedy Soho club at 10am on a Saturday morning.

I was there for an intensive weekend crash course in how to build websites from scratch.

Founded by techpreneur Michael Healy (whose controversial student rating app Ratemash went viral within 24 hours), CoderCourse school promises to get people coding and developing their tech ideas in two days.

Healy, a patient teacher with the upbeat, can-do attitude that characterises the start-up world, invites me upstairs and hands me a 900-page booklet he has written to work through.

Feeling out of my depth, I join my fellow skill-seekers and start reading instructions to write code, wondering how I am going to make it through the next 10 hours.

Remarkably, by lunchtime, my first website has gone live and Healy is giving me a high-five. By 8pm, his learning-by-doing approach is finally making the foreign symbols sink in.

Healy is one of a number of entrepreneurs who have recognised a gap in the market for coding courses targeting children and professionals around London.

The courses are not cheap – a CoderCourse weekend crash course will set you back £800 – although my fellow coders, mostly young professionals, saw it as a worthwhile investment in an increasingly competitive job market.

If you think that is stretching your budget, the next best option is to try Code Academy's free online tutorials. The popular site organises tutorials as computer games to keep users engaged.

Once you have got a grip with the language, you can join one of several code-orientated meet-up groups in south-west London.

Wimbletech, a start-up hub in Wimbledon library, runs bi-monthly weekend "hackathons" for tech enthusiasts.

And if you would like to get your children into coding, look out for events run by educational charity Code Club, which teaches children how to code in schools and libraries including Croydon library.

According to Bill Gates, "Learning to write programs stretches your mind, and helps you think better, creates a way of thinking about things that I think is helpful in all domains."

His estimated $80bn fortune mostly came from computer programming.

So investing your time and money in coding could be a wise and lucrative idea.

JOIN THE CLUB: Get an introduction to HTML and Dreamweaver with a Java beginners' course. No previous knowledge required, but being comfortable with Windows is required.
● **King Charles Centre, Hollyfield Road, Surbiton; April 23 – June 19, 6.30pm – 9pm; £146 a course; hotcourses.com.**

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The company has a real talent for finding places where people really want to live. 'Aspirational but achievable' is the mantra, and Somers Gate is a perfect example what Thakeham does best.

Somers Gate is located in Reigate and not surprisingly, homebuyers are already showing keen interest in this collection of 12 homes, consisting of three, four and five bedrooms both new and refurbished homes.

Pippa Bugby, Sales and Marketing Director at Thakeham, says: "It seems that homebuyers have been waiting a long time for a development like this.

"Somers Gate is unique for the area, it's a gated development of a small number of homes and the residents can enjoy the open private landscaped grounds. In our experience, Reigate has always been a very popular location, and we anticipate a good rate of success for this development."

Somers Gate is a classic Thakeham development in that the houses are set around The Green and bordered by mature trees, featuring a woodland walk amongst matures trees and rhododendron beds, it's gated for privacy, and each home benefits from good-sized private gardens and parking.

The development is surrounded by superb countryside. If you're in the mood for a breath of fresh air, take your pick from Gatton Park, Earlswood Common, Leith Hill, or Priory Park.

A five minute drive brings you to Reigate's picturesque town centre, where you'll find boutiques, gift shops, and interiors specialists mix with artisan bakeries, delicatessens, a traditional butcher and a major supermarket.

Good schools are also a vital part of the Reigate which include 'Outstanding' Dovers Green School and Reigate School close to Somers Gate, as well as highly regarded independent Reigate Grammar and Dunnottar School for Girls.

The Somers Gate homes are designed with modern tastes in mind. You can see it for yourself in the soon-to-be-launched showhome, whose interior has been designed by award-winning interior designers Alexander James. Prices start at £475,000. **Visit thakeham.com**

Booming buy-to-let

Estate Agent Aston Mead are predicting a boom in buy-to-let investment in 2015, following changes to pension rules that come into play this spring.

The freedoms announced in last year's budget mean that after April 6, savers over the age of 55 will be able to take their pension as cash, rather than locking into an annuity. This money could then be used to buy a rental property, with some returns expected to be as high as 13 per cent.

Director Adam Hesse says: "We shouldn't underestimate just what a huge impact these pension reforms are likely to have. An army of 'silver investors' will now be able to make use of their pension pots to invest in the property market. And with annuity rates running as low as 2 per cent in some cases, a buy-to-let yield is an attractive alternative."

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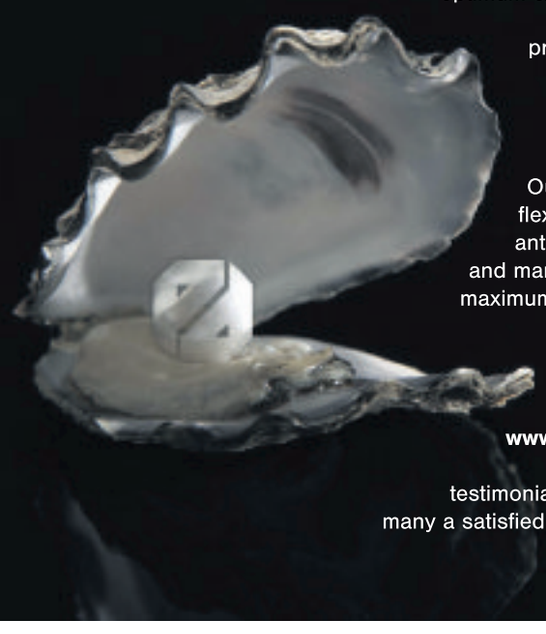

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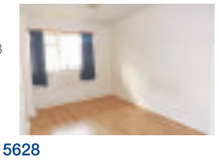

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FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Obituary Notice

BARBARA BENWELL
(née Hooper)

On 8th January 2015 aged 85 years at Cornerways Residential Home, Paignton, and formerly of Preston Down Road, following a move to Devon in 1988 from Stoneleigh, Surrey. Wife of the late Edgar Benwell. Loving Aunt to Corinne and Helen, devoted Sister to Doreen Miller and caring Step-Mother to Joan, Eileen, Ann and Susan. Enquiries to T. and I. Stockman, Paignton 01803 552112.

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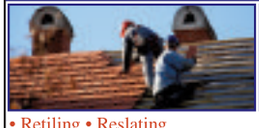

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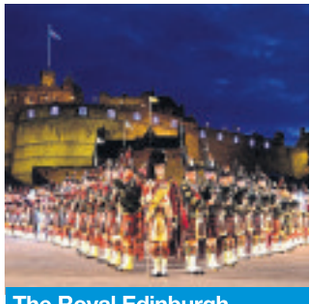

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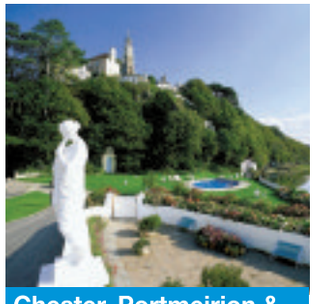

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IN BANKRUPTCY

KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES COUNTY COURT

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Mr A Oliver, Official Receiver and trustee

MICHELE KATRINA HOLLAND (otherwise Michelle Katrina Holland, Michele Katrina Milnes, Michelle Katrina McCallum, Michele Katrina Makepeace) (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925, notice is hereby given that any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of Flat 31 Waights Court, Acre Road, Kingston Upon Thames KT2 6EG, who died on 5/4/2013 are required to send written particulars to the undersigned on or before 23/3/2015, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

SheridanLaw LLP Solicitors.
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Correction Notice

JOSEPHINE PATRICIA RIJHWANI (also known as JOSEPHINE PATRICIA FRANKS) (Deceased)

Notice is hereby given that the name of the deceased is as above and not as previously printed on 18th December 2014 and the date for claims is now two months and one day from the date of this publication. All other particulars under S27 Trustee Act 1925 remain the same.

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SYLVIA RYDER-LARGE (Deceased)

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JOAN MARY GWENDOLYN ARTHUR (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 59 Howard Road New Malden Surrey KT3 4EB, who died on 02/08/2014, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 20/03/2015 after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

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FIRST DRIVE: 2015 AUDI S6

TURBOCHARGED TRICKS

WHAT'S NEW?: Audi has pressed the refresh button on the full A6 range, so the muscle-bound S6 saloon and Avant estate get the same (tiny) makeover.

The grille now has twin bars running across it instead of single, thicker ones, and the headlights, bumper and air inlets have been slightly reshaped.

Don some X ray specs and you'll see adaptive air suspension set to 20mm lower than the standard A6, while the brake calipers are now matt black, the rear diffuser has an aluminium-look blade and the full-LED headlights are ever-so-slightly slimmer.

LOOKS AND IMAGE: The wider changes to the base car have made it a better-looking platform for the S and, in 2015, the RS development teams to deal with.

Side skirts that jut out more prominently, 19-inch twin-spoke alloy wheels and those flashy headlights give it the kind of window shopping appeal that half of Amsterdam could scarcely dream of.

But the S6's civility is stuffed deep down inside its bag of tricks and there's no getting rid of it. At first glance this could just be an S-line spec A6, and its relative understatement is one of the qualities that help it sell so well.

SPACE AND PRACTICALITY: In finest fast Audi tradition you can choose an estate model as well as the saloon. The wagon is a bit heavier, not that you'll notice unless you take it on a track day, but it's prettier and as roomy as an empty shed.

The question marks have to come further forward, in the passenger zone. With such shapely seats and high-quality leathers cocooning you like a Persian prince, the S6 is better for luxuriating than it is for folding the seats down and throwing a load of planks into. It's just too well-appointed for that.

BEHIND THE WHEEL: Turbocharging a V8 gets you lots of things; power and speed being two.

The S6 is as rapid as the people who take used plates away at all-you-can-eat buffets, and it doesn't feel particularly like a turbocharged engine.

It pulls harder and harder with a barrel-chested bellow as the revs rise, a lot like the engines of S-car generations past.

Grip and traction are beyond what you'd ever be able to exploit on the road. The way it drags itself so violently but so steadily out of tight corners is uncanny. G-force has never been so unthreatening.

Most roads simply aren't big enough for the S6 to stretch its legs, but at normal speeds it's as stable as Ayers Rock. Sure, it's firm over bumps on its huge (optional) 21-inch wheels, but if history has taught us anything it's that Audi buyers don't tend to mind sacrificing ride quality for aesthetics.

VALUE FOR MONEY: At £56,000, the saloon is not a cheap car. And at that price Audi kindly leaves a lot of the technology and luxury that you're likely to want on the options list, so quickly totting up beyond £60,000 is a given.

It's big, hugely capable and prestigious, but smaller premium-brand cars that will do the job just as well could offer a much better value alternative.

FACTS AT A GLANCE

Audi S6 Saloon, from £56,000

Engine: 4.0-litre turbocharged petrol V8 producing 444bhp and 406lb/ft of torque

Transmission: Eight-speed automatic driving all four wheels

Performance: Top speed 155mph, 0-62mph in 4.4 seconds

Economy: 30.7mpg combined

Emissions: 216g/km of CO2

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Call to lower drink-drive limit

Three quarters of drivers in the UK think the drink-drive limit should be lowered to the same limit as recently introduced in Scotland.

The Scottish limit is now 50mg of alcohol per 100ml of blood compared to an 80mg limit in the rest of the UK, but 74 per cent of drivers agree the whole of the UK should have a lower limit.

A further 43 per cent of drivers reckon the UK limit should be dropped to 20mg of alcohol per 100ml of blood to introduce an effective zero tolerance for drink-driving. Other European countries such as Poland and Sweden have this limit already in place.

In the survey carried out by Brake and Direct Line, only 26 per cent of drivers thought the current drink-drive limit was sufficient.

However, a lowering of the drink-drive limit to 50mg/ 100ml would reduce road deaths in the UK by an estimated 65 lives.

Julie Townsend, deputy chief executive, Brake, said: "The current drink drive limit in England and Wales sends a confusing message and asks drivers to do the impossible – guess when they are safe to drive. In reality, even very small amounts of alcohol impair driving."

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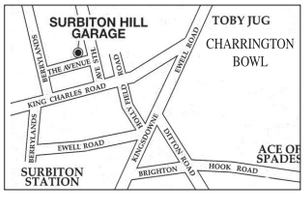

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Old Boys handed blow by Vandals

New Malden-based KCS Old Boys' London Division Two South West promotion hopes suffered a blow on Saturday.

KCS, currently fourth in the table, crashed 24-17 at Weybridge Vandals to slip 15 points behind second placed Winchester, who they visit this week.

Old Tiffinians lost 25-11 at London Division Three South West leaders Andover and host Purley John Fisher on Saturday.

Kingston edged Old Wellingtonians 19-18 for a crucial Surrey Division One win.

More sport: kingstonguardian.co.uk

Bullish: Kingstonian assistant manager Graham Harper, left, and boss Tommy Williams are hoping Saturday's win can spark a play-off charge

Keep the faith boys

Kingstonian assistant Graham Harper says he and boss Tommy Williams have a fighting chance of taking Ks to the Ryman Premier League play-offs – because the players are prepared to fight for it, *writes Stuart Amos*.

Williams' men bounced back from Wednesday's 3-1 defeat at Grays Athletic to return to winning ways with a 1-0 win over Tonbridge Angels on Saturday thanks to a second half Jake Kempton header.

Harper is fearful of Ks letting their campaign unravel, but he reckons that while the players still believe, they can close the eight point gap to the top five there is still hope.

"Sometimes you look at squads and look at performances and wonder whether players are putting it all in for the cause or not," he said.

"But you look around our squad and it is clear to us they are giving it everything they have got.

"There are a lot of games still to go and if we can keep the belief we have got and keep our work rate up then we can get ourselves in the mix."

He added: "We don't want to let the season peter out.

"It is still tight and three or four wins on the bounce can fire us up."

Prepared

Surbiton will commence the second half of their MHL Premier Division campaign well prepared next month.

Head coach Todd Williams's side, currently second in the table, returned to outdoor training this week ahead of the competition's resumption on February 7.

They travel to north London rivals Hampstead & Westminster for a mid-season friendly on Sunday.

THINK POSITIVE: Onslow-Cole is hoping for big things in 2015

Podium is tip of iceberg

SPORTS EDITOR
STUART AMOS
samos@
london.newsquest.co.uk

New Malden's Tom Onslow-Cole is hoping a podium finish at the Hankook 24 Hour Dubai race is just the tip of the iceberg for him in 2015.

The 27-year-old racing driver played a key role in British endurance team Ram Racing's recovery from 30th position in the early laps to claim second place overall in the Middle East.

Onslow-Cole helped qualify the team's Mercedes SLG AMG GT3 machine in fourth place and drove the penultimate leg of the race to hand over to team-mate Adam Christodoulou for the final hour with the team in second.

It was the former Brooklands College student's first race for the Silverstone-based outfit since agreeing a deal with them in December.

Onslow-Cole was in the KPM Racing team that finished 43rd overall – but second in the diesel touring cars class – in the same event 12 months ago, having quit the British Touring Car Championship in 2013.

That performance was the beginning of a mixed year in a Strata 21 Aston Martin Vantage GT3 in the British GT Championship, that brought a best finish of fourth.

But the Milltek Sport sponsored ace is hoping for better this year.

"To stand on the Dubai 24 Hours podium is fantastic," he said.

"I started my endurance racing career here 12 months ago and I've never looked back.

"It was a great way to kick start a year that is already looking really good – I can't wait to make my 2015 season announcement."

Sunshine state: Tom Onslow-Cole in his Mercedes SLG AMG GT3 in Dubai on Friday and, below left, with his Ram team-mates

Ayinde: Dansie will regret facing me again

Welterweight champion Anthony Ayinde says he will make old rival Ashley Dansie wish he had never fought him again next month, *writes Alan Foley*.

The 23-year-old champion from Kingston will make the second defence of his novice title against Redhill's Dansie on the undercard of the Queensbury Boxing League's opening show of the new season on February 7 at the Millennium Effingham Park Hotel in West Sussex.

Ayinde has established himself as one of the division's rising stars over the last 12 months after capturing the title with a hard fought win over Dansie back in September.

The Kingston pugilist says he knows exactly what to do against Dansie this time out to finish their trilogy with an emphatic victory.

"I'm going to make Ashley Dansie wish he'd never taken this fight, and I'm going to prove to everyone watching in that arena that I am the better fighter," warned the champion.

"After boxing Ashley twice now, I've learned a lot about how he likes to fight, and he is a strong fighter coming forward, but he definitely does not like it when he's pushed backwards.

"For this fight I'm looking at going head-to-head with him in the ring and I'll be the one pushing him back.

"This time out you will see a far more dangerous fighter who will take his opportunity to finish the contest when that chance comes."

Also in action alongside Ayinde will be Kingston cruiserweight contender Miles Gordon Darby, who will be hoping he can build on an impressive debut in the competition.

Gordon Darby made a winning start to his Queensbury career back in October when he stepped in at late notice to beat former cruiserweight title challenger Matt Hilliker at the Epsom Downs Racecourse in Surrey.

And, after impressing the show's promoters with his display, the young prospect could be one to watch this year as he bids to establish himself as a genuine contender among the competition's other champions.

For more information on the Rise of the Warriors show on February 7 visit to **queensburyboxing.co.uk**.

All smiles (from left to right): Kingston's Miles Gordon Darby lines up alongside Anthony Ayinde and corner men Daniel Nwaogwugwu and Mark Fitch after Ayinde's welterweight win over Ashley Dansie last time out

International: Surbiton's Georgie Twigg Ady Kerry

Surbiton on brink

Surbiton Ladies head to Nottingham Trent University this weekend knowing promotion to the Indoor Hockey Fives Championship Premier Division is theirs to lose, *writes Colin Pike*.

England internationals Sarah Haycroft, Georgie Twigg and Rebecca Herbert were all on target as their team won their opening four matches in the first weekend of the competition to top the Division One table.

Twigg notched four, Herbert two and captain Haycroft one as Bristol Firebrands were beaten 11-2 in the opening match on Saturday, before Ipswich were thrashed 7-1 with Herbert (two) again among the scorers.

Twigg hit a brace as did Natalie Maclean in a 5-3 win over Buckingham on Sunday, and Sarah Page did the same to secure a 3-2 win over Leicester hours later.

Surbiton face the division's bottom three teams – Horsham, Olton & West Warwicks and Wakefield – this weekend.

Read Surbiton Ladies captain Sarah Haycroft's exclusive column in this week's Surrey Comet or visit yourlocalguardian.co.uk.

ROCK BOTTOM: Stragglers Running Club's Paul Lowe might have finished fifth, but he got little support from the rest of his clubmates as his team finished last in the Surrey Men's Cross-Country League Division Two meeting on Wimbledon Common on Saturday. Lowe, a regular at the Bushy Park parkrun, clocked 29 minutes seven seconds, but the next highest finisher for Stragglers was Martin Snodgrass, who came 21st. The club's women, led home by Sarah Kinsella [33:39] in 12th, finished fifth in their Division One meet at the same venue.

LOOKING UP: Kingston & Polytechnic Harriers' men finished third in the Surrey Men's Cross-Country League Division Three match where James Robertson clocked 32 minutes 22 seconds to lead his team home in sixth.

SAME OLD: Corinthian Casuals lost 3-0 at Guernsey on Saturday.